REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1-18 were pending and rejected. In this response, no claim has been canceled. Claims 1-3, 5, 11-12, and 18 have been amended to particularly point out and distinctly claim, in full, clear, concise, and exact terms, the subject matter which Applicant regards as his invention. In addition, new claims 19-22 have been added. Thus, claims 1-22 remain pending. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Raith, US Patent No. 6,725,052 (hereinafter "Raith"), in view of Mizutani et al., US Patent No. 7,805,579 (hereinafter "Mizutani").

In view of the foregoing amendments, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as claimed includes a limitation that is not disclosed or suggested by Raith and Mizutani. Specifically, for example, independent claim 1 recites as follows:

> 1. A method of operating a packet network having base stations for communication with mobile units, comprising:
>
> initiating a call involving a group of mobile units,
>
> receiving a signal at two or more of the base stations from one of the mobile units,
>
> determining at each of the base stations, a respective priority parameter for the signal as received at the base station,
>
> adding the priority parameters to at least some packets of the respective signals to form prioritized signals,
>
> transmitting the prioritized signals containing the respective priority parameters to the network,
>
> receiving the prioritized signals at base stations in the network,
>
> selecting at each of the base stations, a prioritized signal for transmission to mobile units in the group, and
>
> transmitting the selected signal to the mobile units.

(Emphasis added)

Independent claim 1 requires receiving a signal of a call involving a group of mobile units at multiple base stations. Each base station independently determines a priority for the signal and adds a priority parameter representing the determined priority in certain packets of the signal, forming a prioritized signal. Thereafter, each base station transmits the prioritized signal to the network and received at each of the base stations. Each base station then compares the received signals in view of the priorities and selects one of the signals to be broadcast to the mobile units in the network.

That is, the present invention as claimed is related to a mobile radio system in which group calls involve a voting process distributed among multiple base stations. Each of the base stations determines which signals received from one or more mobile units in the group are given priority for transmission to other mobile units in the group. Thus, there is no centralized voter is required. It is respectfully submitted that these limitations are absent from Raith and Mizutani.

Although Raith and Mizutani are related to mobile communication systems; however, Raith and Mizutani fail to disclose the voting process as set forth above. In fact, there is no disclosure regarding a voting process at all in Raith and Mizutani. Even if there were, the systems of Raith and Mizutani appear to be centralized voting systems, for example, probably carried out by GCS 18 of Fig. 1 in Raith or by PSDN 106 of Fig. 1 of Mizutani.

However, there is no disclosure or suggestion within Raith and Mizutani that multiple base stations are involved in determining and adding priority parameters to the signals received from the mobile units, and then using these priority parameters to select which signals are transmitted to other mobile units as required by claim 1 as amended.

Therefore, for reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 as amended is patentable over Raith and Mizutani.

Similarly, independent claim 11 includes limitations similar to those recited in claim 1. Thus, for the reasons similar to those discussed above, independent claim 11 is patentable over Raith and Mizutani.

Given that dependent claims 2-10 and 12-17 depend from one of the above independent claims, at least for the reasons similar to those discussed above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-10 and 12-17are patentable over Raith and Mizutani.

With respect to newly added claims 19-22, these claims are related to operations of each individual base station performing adding priority parameters or selecting by priority parameters respectively. Specifically, claim 19 is related to a base station performing determining and adding priority parameters to a signal received from a mobile unit for transmitting to the network. Claim 21 is related to a base station to receive signals containing priority parameters from the network and to select one of the signals for transmission to the remaining mobile units in the group. For reasons similar to those set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 19 and 21, as well as their respective dependent claims, are also patentable over Raith and Mizutani.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits the present application is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call/email the undersigned attorney.

Please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any shortage of fees in connection with this response.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN

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